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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**June 15, 2001**

## **SHOTS FIRED NEAR TEMECULA BORDER PATROL AGENT SHOOTS CAR TRYING TO RUN HIM DOWN**

**Temecula, California** - Temecula, CA - A Border Patrol Agent fired upon a vehicle that attempted to run over him yesterday evening near Temecula.

The agent stopped a late model Dodge Intrepid on Sterling View Drive, near Fallbrook. The driver of the vehicle grabbed the agent's gun after the agent had asked to see his immigration documents. The agent regained control of the weapon and the vehicle sped away.

Agents pursued the suspects to a cul-de-sac, where the vehicle turned and the driver attempted to run over one of the agents who was on foot. Agent fired at the suspect, who drove past them and onto I-15 southbound.

Border Patrol units followed the vehicle, which cut across the highway and drove down an embankment, coming to a stop near Old 395 Road, south of Highway 76. Agents immediately apprehended two suspects inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle and two others who were locked in the trunk. Officers and helicopters from the California Highway Patrol and the San Diego County Sheriff's Office arrived and assisted the agents with the search for the driver. The suspect was finally located by the Sheriff's helicopter using infrared technology.

Deputy Sheriffs Joe Hernandez and Dan Settle, along with their police dogs, Vento and Urk, apprehended the driver, a suspected smuggler, hiding near the scene. Border Patrol, CHP and FBI agents are investigating the incident. All suspects are being held in Border Patrol custody pending results of the ongoing investigation.

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